

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, SCUL, GR

SUBJECT: ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS VISITS THESSALONIKI

REF: THESSALONIKI' S 0222

1. ALL THESSALONIKI PAPERS APRIL 13 CARRIED FRONT PAGE REPORTS OF VISIT TO THESSALONIKI OF ARCHBISHOP OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA, IAKOVOS, WHO ARRIVED PREVIOUS DAY WITH LARGE ENTOURAGE INCLUDING ARCHBISHOP OF AUSTRALIA, IEZEKIEL.

2. EN ROUTE FROM AIRPORT, IAKOVOS BRIEFLY ATTENDED THESSALONIKI STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS CONGRESS WHERE, ACCORDING TO " VORRAS" ACCOUNT, STUDENT HAD EARLIER MADE MOTION THAT " CONGRESS PASS RESOLUTION DENOUNCING ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS" (PRESUMABLY FOR HIS STANDS ON USE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN CHURCHES AND SEPARATISM, WHICH VORRAS HAS OFTEN DENOUNCED). AFTER CALLS ON GOVERNOR AND MAYOR, ARCHBISHOP HOSTED LUNCHEON FOR HIS GROUP AND PROMINENT MEMBERS AMERICAN AND GREEK - AMERICAN COMMUNITY, INCLUDING VISITING MINISTER BRANDIN.

3. IN EVENING, ARCHBISHOP DELIVERED LENGHTY SPEECH ON " HELLENIC THINKING AND ORTHODOX THEOLOGY AS BALANCING FACTORS IN MODERN TECHNOLOGICAL AND MATERIALISTIC CONCEPT OF LIFE" AT THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY, WHERE HOSTING RECTOR SDRAKAS ANNOUNCED THEOLOGY SCHOOL' S DECISION TO AWARD
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ARCHBISHOP HONORARY DOCTOR' S DEGREE AT SOME FUTURE DATE.
TITLE IS DESCRIPTIVE OF SPEECH CONTENT WHICH EMPLOYED
EXAMPLE OF UNITED STATES SITUATION AS OBJECT LESSON.

4. " VORRAS" CARRIED REPORT OF ARCHBISHOP' S INTERVIEW WITH
ITS EDITOR, NICOLAOS STANGOS, SALIENT POINTS OF WHICH ARE:

A) TO QUESTION CONCERNING HIS ALLEGED FAILURE TO " PRESERVE
GREEK LANGUAGE AMONG GREEKS IN US", IAKOVOS REPLIED THERE
SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT, THAT PROBLEM EXISTED
SINCE 1920 WHEN ARCHDIOCESE FORESAW DANGER THAT GREEK
LANGUAGE MIGHT BE FORGOTTEN BY IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES
AND HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO PROTECT IT. POINTING TO NUMBER
OF SCHOOLS OPERATED BY ARCHDIOCESE (500 NIGHT GRAMMAR, 17
DAY GRAMMAR, TEACHER' S ACADEMY, GREEK- ENGLISH COLLEGE AND
THEOLOGY SCHOOL), ARCHBISHOP FELT EFFORT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL.
RECALLING THAT ENGLISH INTRODUCED IN ORTHODOX SUNDAY SCHOOLS
BY PREDECESSOR IN 1950, IAKOVOS SAID THAT ONLY GOSPEL AND
SOME PARTS OF SERMON WERE READ IN ENGLISH FOR BETTER
COMPREHENSION BY " YOUNG MEN OF ORTHODOX FAITH", BUT THAT ENTIRE
RELIGIOUS SERVICE WAS CONDUCTED IN GREEK.

B) ON RELATIONS BETWEEN ARCHDIOCESE AND ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCHATE, ARCHBISHOP STATED HE BELONGED TO ECUMENICAL
THRONE, AND THAT RELATIONS WITH MOTHER CHURCH WERE " ALTOGETHER
HARMONIOUS". PLEDGING HIS FULL SUPPORT TO PATRIARCHATE,
IAKOVOS URGED THAT OF ALL IN ORTHODOX CHURCH, SAYING IT
NOW FACED WITH " MANY DANGERS".

C) ON MAKARIOS ISSUE, HE SAID HIS POSITION WAS FIRMLY
THAT OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE.

D) ARCHBISHOP DECLINED AS " GUEST OF GREECE" TO GIVE
VIEWS ON DISPUTE BETWEEN GREEK CHURCH AND PATRIARCHATE AND
ON " CRISIS CREATED IN GREEK CHURCH BY RESIGNATION OF ITS
HEAD", STATING ONLY IN REGARD TO FORMER THAT IT WAS " MISTAKE"
THAT GREEK SIDE HAD NOT COMPLIED WITH PROTOCOL OF 1928.

5. AFTER VISITS TO VLATADON MONASTERY, PATRIARCHAL INSTITUTE
OF PATRISTIC STUDIES AND AMERICAN FARM SC
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